

The Library Assistant :

The Official Journal of the Library Assistants' Association.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

NORTH WESTERN BRANCH.

Special attention is called to the Announcement relating to the Third Annual Meeting of the North Western Branch, which appears on our centre page.

EDITORIAL.

Change of Honorary Treasurer.—During the absence of Mr. Chambers on active service, the President, Mr. J. F. Hogg, has kindly taken over the accounts of the Association. Until further notice, therefore, will readers kindly note that all subscriptions should be addressed to him at The Central Library, Lavender Hill, Battersea, London, S.W.

The Summer School.—We are glad to learn that the Summer School organized by the Library Association and the University of Wales at Aberystwyth has been a splendid success, being attended by some sixty students. In these circumstances, we sincerely hope that the School may become an annual function. We hope to publish an account of it in our next issue.

The Winter Programme.—At the moment of going to press we are unable to make any announcement concerning a winter programme of meetings, but the matter will be considered by the Council at an early date, and we hope to be in a position to notify our readers of the result next month. Meanwhile, if any have ideas on the subject we feel sure they would be sympathetically considered by the Council.

The L.A. Examinations.—We regret that considerations of space do not permit us to publish the complete pass-lists for this year's examinations, but we avail ourselves of this opportunity of offering the Association's congratulations to all those who have been successful. Summarised, the results were as follows:—

Literary History. 7 sat, 3 passed.
 Bibliography. 3 sat, 3 passed.
 Classification. 12 sat, 8 passed.
 Cataloguing. 13 sat, 12 passed.
 Library Organization. 8 sat, 4 passed.
 Library Routine. 30 sat, 19 passed.

LIBRARIES AND WELFARE WORK.

By THOS. A. BARNETT, University Library, Manchester.

Of the many potent results of the present war, probably none is more striking or more significant than the remarkable change which has taken place in the relationship between capital and labour. For a number of years the industrial history of this country had been witnessing a rapidly widening breach between these two great sections of the community, with an accompanying period of social trouble and unrest, and due almost entirely to their failing to realise, or at any rate to recognise, their interdependence and the essentiality of their co-operation to success. Only here and there did we find an employer, who, recognising that his own interests were largely dependent upon those of his workers, was doing something to improve their conditions. As has been very truly said, "It is a strange irony that the making of weapons of destruction should afford the occasion to humanise industry." Yet such is the case. It was the outbreak of war and the subsequent demand for increased output, which first brought the matter home to us. It was very soon discovered that the best work and the greatest output were invariably secured where improved conditions of labour were in evidence.

Prior to the commencement of hostilities, we had already entered upon an era of combines. The small trader and manufacturer were slowly passing away; huge works were springing up on every hand, and, as a result, large new communities were rapidly being formed. It was soon discovered, however, that such growth was almost invariably accompanied by a widening gulf between employer and employee; it became impossible to maintain the personal relationships which were characteristic of early industry,

and some means had soon to be devised in order to bring back once more the human element which was so much lacking. Hence arose the need for Welfare Departments.

It is quite impossible to say at present whether the existing conditions will remain with us when peace is once more restored and the tumult of war is an echo of the past, or whether we shall revert to our former illogical and uneconomic methods, but it is fairly certain that the value of Welfare Work has been sufficiently well recognised to secure for it a permanent place in our economic life. Whatever other changes are to be made in the society of this immediate future, Welfare Work has come to stay, and it behoves us to examine it closely and understand what it is and what it is capable of.

The two excellent summaries* of the efforts which have already been made to provide better conditions, show very clearly that the regulation of hours and conditions of labour, rates of remuneration, and the care of the physical well-being of the workers, do not exhaust the possibilities of this work, but that much can be done to provide for healthy recreation and mental development. Experience has proved that a clear and alert mind is as essential to good workmanship as good physique, and many means have been devised for the provision of mental training. The chief of these is the formation of libraries and the provision of books to read, and it is with these that it is proposed to deal.

Although the question has received little or no attention up to the present, it is by no means new. As long ago as 1846 there was a library established at the factory of Mr. John Rylands of Manchester,† containing about 600 volumes, and there has been a gradual development ever since, until to-day there are quite a number of fairly large libraries, and the recent stimulus which has been given to the movement is causing them to be founded in increasing numbers.

What is to be the attitude of the profession towards this new phase of library work? What kind of relationship is there going to exist between the Welfare Library and the Public Library? Shall we extend our sphere of usefulness and co-operate in the attempt to reach these new communities, or must we leave the Welfare Libraries to develop along their own lines? These are vital questions which will need answering in the very near future. The establishment

*Meakin. *Model factories and villages, and Proud. Welfare work.*

†Factory Inspect. Reports, 1848. Rylands (J.) J. Rylands. In memoriam.

of these libraries should not impede the work of the public library one iota, but on the other hand, we can if we will, so adjust our relationships as to enable them to supplement it, just as has already been done in connection with school libraries. The life of the average worker is nowadays largely centred in the factory or the workshop, and the influence of these libraries will probably extend to regions quite beyond the reach of the ordinary public library.

In considering the nature of the Welfare Library it is advisable to have constantly in mind the purpose which it is expected to serve. It has a twofold object :—

(a) To cater for the recreation and instruction of the workers by supplying good light literature for general culture and along the lines of the business of the particular firm—just as the public library does, only within the bounds of a definitely restricted community.

(b) To meet the technical requirements of the administration, in the form of a specialised library.

The extent to which it is possible to make this practicable is largely dependent upon the size of the firm and the amount of money that can be applied to the work. At the present time it is being carried out in varying degrees and upon somewhat different lines. In some cases we find either a general or a technical library—in others *both*; sometimes there is no permanent collection at all and the library merely loans collections of books from the local public library, or from one of many large subscription libraries; whilst others make use of outside co-operation in addition to possessing a collection of their own. An examination of these various systems in practice shows success to be possible in so many directions, that it is more than probable that there never will be absolute uniformity.

The first step in the establishment of a Welfare Library should be the appointment of a librarian. Very often, especially in the case of the smaller department, the management of the library is left in the hands of the Welfare Secretary, but his duties are so multifarious that he cannot devote sufficient time to do the work successfully; a separate custodian should therefore be appointed whenever possible. The post is not one that can be held by anyone other than a qualified person, for besides possessing the many qualifications which go to make a successful librarian, he must have a sufficiently intimate knowledge of the business of the firm as will enable him to supervise the technical side of the library. This having been done—the proper person having been appointed—it is then possible to examine the needs of the workers and the general nature of the

demand, side by side with the income available, and to determine which is the best plan to follow in the arrangement of the library.

Provided that these preliminary steps are taken, little difficulty should be experienced in the building up of the general section of the library. The principles which are applied in the selection of books for a public library will be readily applicable. As the report of one large Welfare Library* shows, "there is the usual heavy demand for fiction and magazine literature, but the selection of this for the library shelves is carefully made, and in the men's section, travel, history, biography and science are well used." Useful work, too, can be accomplished by the provision of a trade section to be especially at the disposal of apprentices. The combining of theory with practice is very valuable. "The tradesman can learn more of the mathematics of his trade when he learns it in connection with his trade than he can in weeks of unrelated theoretical study."

When we come to the technical side of the library, the problem is much more difficult and demands a great deal of careful consideration. The object of this section is to provide the very latest information upon matters relating to the business of the firm and to answer with the least possible delay the many questions which arise daily. To do this successfully it is not only necessary to possess a good and up-to-date collection of text-books and works of reference, but a speciality should also be made of such things as specialists' pamphlets, trade catalogues and periodicals, and provision may be made for the preservation and convenient arrangement of special data and specifications. The technical library should be the very heart of a well-organized business concern.

In addition to the general standard of the books provided and the initiative and enterprise of the person in charge, no small share of the ultimate success of the library will be found to depend upon the facilities offered to the workers and the arrangements made to make the books accessible. Without in any way attempting to draw up an elaborate code of rules and regulations, and leaving at one side the innumerable other problems of library routine, something may very well be said concerning two important questions which invariably have to be faced; namely, (a) Shall any charge be made for the use of the Welfare

*Cadbury. Experiments in industrial organization. pp. 227,239.

Library? and (b) What shall be the hours during which it is possible to obtain books?

The answer to the first question will largely be determined by the nature of the income, though the problem of how to keep the collection thoroughly up to date will have some influence. In almost all existing cases there is a small subscription required, though the amount varies considerably and in the majority of cases it forms part of one general subscription which entitles the member to participate in all the activities of the Welfare Department. It will none the less be generally agreed that the smaller the charge the better, for whatever amount it may be it is almost certain to debar somebody.

The question of providing adequate facilities for the use of the library is more important still. Until such a time at least as the workers realise what advantages are to be obtained from the proper use of books, it will be necessary almost literally to take the books to them—you must create a desire before you can expect a demand. The greater part of the work will necessarily be done during the dinner hour; but it is also advisable to have the library open for a short time before business commences in the morning, so that readers can return their books before going in to their work, and again also for about an hour just as they are leaving in the evening. Some libraries are open throughout the whole of the day and arrangements are made whereby readers need not actually visit the library, but merely have to leave a request for the book desired in one of the special boxes to be found in various parts of the works and the book is then sent to them. Whether this is carrying the work a little too far or not, is a debatable point—the readers would certainly benefit by constantly visiting the library and coming into direct personal contact with the books. The provision of guidance in the choice of books is often as essential as their provision. In those establishments where considerable use is made of the technical side of the collection, it may not be possible for the librarian to keep the library open for longer than the three specified periods. In a few special cases, where the concerns are situated on the outskirts of a town and the workers all living near at hand form a somewhat distinct community, it has been found worth while to keep the library open for several hours during the evening.

For the efficient and enthusiastic custodian of the Welfare Library there is endless scope for really useful educational work. With a definitely restricted community such as the librarian of the public library never has and a collec-

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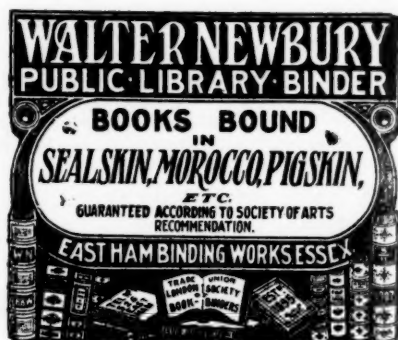
LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

Special Offer to Members of the L.A.A.

The L.A. offers at greatly reduced prices a large number of
issues of the "Library Association Record," at threepence each,
plus carriage, cash with order. Certain other official publications
are offered at equally low rates. For a complete list of publications
available, see the "Record" for July.

The offer remains open until 30th September only.

East Ham Bookbinding Works,



Plashet Lane and Elizabeth Road, East Ham, Essex.

ALBUM OF HONOUR.

The Association is anxious to secure

PHOTOGRAPHS

(Preferably carbon or platinotype prints)

Of all Library Workers on Active Service. Also

NEWSPAPER AND OTHER CUTTINGS, PHOTOGRAPHS OF MEMORIALS, ETC.

If possible, two copies of photographs and other material should be sent, as it is hoped to place a duplicate of the Album in the British Museum.

Please send all material to:

MR. H. A. SHARP,

Central Library, Town Hall, Croydon.

North Western Branch.

ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEE

Nomination for Officers and Committee for the ensuing year should be sent to the Acting Honorary Secretary not later than September 19th.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Third Annual Meeting of the North Western Branch will be held at the **Darwen Public Library**, on **Wednesday, September 26th**. Assemble at the Library at 3 p.m. for a ramble over the Moors. Meeting of Committee at 5 p.m. Annual Meeting, 6.30 p.m.

AGENDA.

- (a) Annual Report.
- (b) Election of Officers, etc.
- (c) Election of New Members.
- (d) Paper or address.

If possible a Musical Evening will be arranged.

Refreshments may be obtained at a reasonable charge.

Members intending to be present are requested to send their names to the Acting Honorary Secretary not later than September 23rd.

It is hoped that Members will make an effort to attend and bring their friends who may be interested in the work of the Association

REGINALD G. WILLIAMS,
Acting Honorary Secretary.

"I hold every man a debtor to his profession, from the which, as men do of course seek to receive countenance and profit, so ought they of duty to endeavour themselves by way of amends to be a help and an ornament thereunto."—FRANCIS BACON, BARON VERULAM.

The Value of Individual Effort.

The Council of the L.A.A. is anxious that every Member and Associate should realize the value of his or her loyalty and support to Librarianship as well as to the Association. In these difficult days the L.A.A., which represents the largest body of library workers in the British Isles, needs the faithful adherence of every Member, and also his or her **ACTIVE CO-OPERATION**.

All Members of whatever grade should consider seriously their relationship to the Association, reflecting as to whether they are doing anything individually to further its interests. Each can do **SOMETHING**; not one is so isolated as to be unable to **ATTEMPT** assistance in some direction. The present times afford especial opportunities for the co-operation of **WOMEN ASSISTANTS**.

Information will be gladly supplied by the *Hon. Secretary*,
BROMLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY, BRUNSWICK ROAD,
POPLAR, LONDON, E. 14.

tion of books specially selected to meet its requirements, it should be possible to exert an enormous amount of influence. One useful piece of work, for example, might be the preparation of a carefully annotated catalogue, and with a collection of a moderate size this should not present any insuperable difficulties, while it would prove of immense value to the juvenile readers, especially in the selection of their books. An excellent example of a catalogue of this kind is the "Catalogue of Books in the Bourneville Works Library."* Then too, advantage can always be very well taken of the Lecture Courses which so often form an important part of the activities of the Welfare Department, whilst any of the Reading and Discussion Circles which are nowadays becoming so popular should be encouraged to make use of the Library in the preparation of their material. Co-operation upon these and other similar lines cannot fail to raise the intellectual status of the works community.

But in addition to the provision of libraries, much excellent work has been accomplished by the provision of reading rooms. One of the first efforts of the Welfare Secretary usually lies in the direction of securing for the workers an attractive and up-to-date dining room, and many of these, with great success, are now being used jointly as reading rooms. They are generally clean and airy and hung with pictures or decorated with plants and flowers, providing quite the desired atmosphere. The rooms are furnished with racks upon which is displayed a good selection of the many weekly and monthly journals and magazines, both those of a general or literary nature and those dealing with the trade or industry of the particular firm. Where of course there is ample accommodation, the dining room might very well be reserved for those who desire to chat or play games, and another convenient room be set apart as a reading and rest room.

These are some of the spheres of usefulness which are open to the Welfare Library; it is still new work and capable of considerable extension and adaptation, and in the renaissance of education which it is hoped will follow this war it will probably play an important part, provided it is taken properly in hand and is animated by the right ideal. It is to be hoped that the library profession will estimate its possibilities and not fail to take advantage of all that it offers.

"We advocate education, not merely to make the man the better workman, but the workman the better man."—(Lubbock.)

*Messrs. Cadbury, Bros., Ltd., 4th ed., 1911.

PROCEEDINGS.

The Fifth Annual Meeting of the South Coast Branch was held at the Public Library, Museum and Art Galleries, Brighton, on Wednesday, July 11th. Prior to the Business Meeting the members were entertained to tea by the Brighton staff. The Chairman of the Branch (Mr. W. Law) presided over an attendance of more than twenty.

The Report on the work of the Branch for the year ending June 30th, 1917, was unanimously adopted. The report showed that the present membership is 34. During the past year it has again been impracticable to hold the usual quarterly meetings. The Libraries on the South Coast cover so wide an area, and the staffs have been so much depleted—that could they have been arranged—attendances would have been too small to warrant the holding of the meetings. However, it is confidently hoped that, later on when the absent members return, the Branch will quickly resume its old flourishing condition, and that well-attended gatherings will again be regularly held.

The Hon. Secretary (Mr. A. Webb) is on service in Salonika, and the secretarial duties have again been carried out by the Hon. Treasurer, Miss Ethel Gerard.

The balance sheet showed an expenditure of £3 10s. 7½d., with a balance in hand of £1 14s. 4½d.

The Officers and Committee for the ensuing year remain the same as in the past year, and are as follows:—

Hon. President, Henry D. Roberts; Hon. Vice-Presidents, Miss M. Frost, Worthing; W. R. Butterfield, Hastings; J. H. Hardcastle, Eastbourne; J. W. Lister, Hove; Chairman, W. Law, Brighton; Hon. Secretary, A. Webb, Brighton; Hon. Treasurer, Miss E. Gerard, Worthing. Committee: Misses M. M. Barnett and E. Young, Brighton; Miss M. Tupman, Worthing; A. M. Hamblyn, Eastbourne; W. Hynes and H. Mew, Hove.

After the adoption of the Report some encouraging messages were read from the President of the Library Assistants' Association, the Secretary of the Branch, Mr. A. Webb; Mr. A. C. Piper (Winchester), now with the Rifle Brigade in France; Mr. E. Male (Brighton), also in France; Mr. R. Mason (Eastbourne), Mr. A. M. Hamblyn (Eastbourne), and Mr. W. Benson Thorne.

Upon the proposition of Miss Tupman, seconded by Miss Young, the following Resolution was enthusiastically carried:—

"That the members of the Library Assistants' Association attending the Fifth Annual Meeting of the South Coast Branch desire to send greetings to those of their colleagues who are still 'on service' for their country; to assure them of their continued interest in their welfare and achievements, together with the wish that all absent members will be afforded a safe and speedy return."

Votes of thanks to the Chairman, Mr. H. D. Roberts, and the members of the Brighton Staff brought the Business Meeting to a close.

Later in the evening the members and friends attended a Concert in the Art Gallery, kindly arranged and given by the "Pink Poms" Concert Party, to which wounded soldiers from the Pavilion were also invited.

FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT.

The Committee have much pleasure in submitting the Fifth Annual Report on the Work of the Branch.

The present membership is 34, of which number, 1 is a Fellow, 16 are Members, and 17 Associates. During the year 4 Associates have been enrolled, and 1 Member and 7 Associates have resigned.

The Committee regret that during the past year it has again been impracticable to hold the usual quarterly Meetings of the Branch. The Libraries in the South Coast Circuit cover so wide an area and the staffs have been so depleted—that could they have been arranged—attendances would have been too small to warrant the holding of the meetings. However it is confidently hoped that later on when the absent members return the Branch will quickly resume its old flourishing condition, and that well-attended gatherings will again be regularly held.

Consequent on the cessation of Meetings there is little to report in the work of the Branch. The Honorary Secretary is on "Active Service" in Salonika, and we are greatly indebted to the Honorary Treasurer for continuing to carry out the secretarial duties during his absence.

We regret to have to record that Sergeant R. E. Smither, of the 14th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment was reported among the "Missing" in September last.

No further intimation has since been received of him, but his parents are still hopeful that he may be alive in the hands of the Germans.

The yearly statement of Receipts and Expenditure is appended. The Committee regret, that after the appeal made last year, it is again necessary to remind some Members that as subscriptions are only being claimed from one third of our Members the work of the Branch cannot be successfully carried on unless subscriptions are paid more promptly.

In some cases half the amount of the small proportion due to the Branch has been more than expended in postage of appeals for its payment.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, 1916—1917.

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balance in hand	1 15 0	Proportion of subscriptions remitted to Hon.		
Subscriptions received ...	3	10 0	Treas. L.A.A. ...	2	6 0
			Stationery and Printing	0	10 6
			Hon. Sec. expenses, postage and petty cash ...	0	14 1½
			Balance in hand ...	1	14 4½
	£5	5 0		£5	5 0

By kind invitation of Miss Austin, the Twenty-Second Annual Meeting of the L.A.A. was held on Wednesday, 13th June, at the National Library for the Blind, the vice-president, Mr. Evan G. Rees, being in the chair. The Minutes of the Twenty-First Meeting having been read and confirmed, the Chairman moved the adoption of the Twenty-Second Annual Report as printed in our June issue. The motion was seconded by the Honorary Secretary, Mr. W. Benson Thorne. In a few, well-chosen words both speakers commented on the satisfactory nature of the Report in view of the existing circumstances, and reviewed its important features, drawing particular attention to the loss sustained by the Association and the profession through the death of so many valued members in the service of their country. The Honorary Secretary announced the election of Mr. J. F. Hogg (Battersea) and Miss Ethel Gerard (Worthing) to the offices of President and Vice-President respectively; the

chair was then taken by Mr. Hogg, deputy librarian of the Battersea Public Libraries, and one of the oldest members of the Association.

A vote of thanks to Messrs. Ross and Rees, the retiring President and Vice-President, was proposed and seconded by Mr. Sharp and Miss Rees respectively, in which reference was made to the good work done by Mr. Ross for the Association in the past, and to the difficulties with which he had to contend during his year of office. Special reference was also made to Mr. Rees' splendid enthusiasm during the past two years.

Mr. Hogg then delivered his Presidential Address as printed in our last issue. Having been invited by the Honorary Secretary to open a discussion on the address, Mr. Inkster (Battersea), expressed his pleasure at seeing Mr. Hogg in the Presidential Chair, and congratulated the Association on its excellent choice. He remarked on the preponderance of women present at the meeting, and urged them all to join the Association. Miss Austin (National Library for the Blind) expressed her admiration of the President's address, and the instructive way in which he had touched upon so many points of interest, and remarked that in her own experience the War had brought about a much deeper interest in libraries on the part of the public.

Mr. Sayers (Croydon) also expressed his appreciation of the Address; he was of the opinion that the President had summed up the present situation so far as libraries were concerned. He also remarked on the undesirability of the Workers' Educational Association's proposal which would bring the libraries of the country under the control of the local educational authorities.

Mr. Rees thanked the President for his address, and Mr. Hogg replied briefly.

This concluded the business part of the meeting, the remainder of the time being occupied with an excellent pianoforte recital by Mr. Harry V. Spanner, Mus. Bac., F.R.C.O., L.R.A.M., Music Librarian at the National Library for the Blind.

L.A.A. ROLL OF HONOUR (continued).

Hornsey : MONTAGUE CLARK (Army Pay Corps); H. E. ROSER (4/7th Batt. Middlesex); ROBERT STRATHER (Royal Navy).

Manchester (John Rylands): W. W. ROBERTS (R.E.)

Woolwich : *W. G. CHAMBERS (R.E.).

WOUNDED.

On behalf of the Association we offer our sympathy to the undermentioned, and trust that they may experience a speedy and complete recovery from their wounds.

Richard Wright (Croydon), 2nd Lt., R.G.A., was wounded in the arm and leg on 31st July while acting as intelligence officer with the infantry. He is at present in the 5th Northern Military Hospital, Leicester.

***Sgt. J. E. Percival** (Darlington) is in the Norfolk War Hospital recovering from a crushed hand. The accident occurred in France.

KILLED IN ACTION.

We regret to record that the undermentioned have fallen in the service of their country, and avail ourselves of the opportunity of tendering our deepest sympathy to the relatives of our late colleagues.

Charles Kennelly (assistant librarian at the Athenaeum). He was 35 years of age, and began library work at Mudie's. In 1899 he entered the service of the London Library, and assisted in the preparation of the "Author Catalogue of the London Library." He was also chosen by Dr. Wright as a member of the special staff employed on the well-known "Subject Index." A few years ago he was appointed assistant librarian of the Athenaeum Club Library.

T. W. Owens (Kensington) has been killed as the result of an explosion. He was nineteen years of age, and entered the services of the Kensington Libraries Committee in 1913.

William Barton Young.—Friends of the late Mr. Young, librarian of Erith, will be interested to learn that the Libraries Committee has decided to place a memorial tablet in the vestibule of the library. It will bear the following inscription:—In memory of Private W. Barton Young, of the 1/14th London Regiment, who died at No. 31 Clearing Station, France, on the 10th April, 1917, from wounds received in action. Librarian to the Erith Urban District Council from the 4th December, 1905, to the 10th April, 1917. It also proposed to hang a framed portrait in the library.

PROMOTIONS AND DECORATIONS.

Congratulations are offered to the following, who have been promoted or have gained important distinctions in the field.

***P. W. Bennett** (Croydon) has been promoted to the rank of sergeant, and is at present engaged in training recruits at Aldershot.

***F. C. Bullock** (Cardiff), Honorary Secretary of the S. Wales Branch of the L.A.A., has been awarded the Military Medal for gallantry at Messines Ridge.

H. M. Roberts (Walthamstow) has been gazetted second lieutenant, 7th Norfolk Regiment.

***Arthur Smith** (Lincoln) has been promoted to the rank of corporal, and transferred to the Highland Light Infantry.

W. S. Wilson (Birmingham) has been awarded the Croix de Guerre for work at Hill 60. Lt. Wilson is in charge of a machine gun corps.

* Member, L.A.A.

CHANGES AND APPOINTMENTS.

*CHAMBERS, W. G., librarian of Plumstead (Woolwich) has resigned.

*LUKE, E., senior assistant, Woolwich Public Libraries, at present on active service, has been promoted to the rank of chief assistant, with residence at the Plumstead Library.

McINTYRE, Miss E. W., of the Glasgow Public Libraries, has been appointed temporary librarian of Plumstead (Woolwich).

WARWICKSHIRE EDUCATION COMMITTEE advertised for a librarian of the Carnegie Rural Library at £160 per annum. Thirty applications were received; the Committee interviewed four candidates, none of whom were considered suitable for the position. It is thought that better candidates may be available after the War; the Committee will, therefore, not make the appointment at present.

YOUNG, MRS. W. B., has been appointed Chief Librarian of Erith on the same terms and conditions as her husband, the late Mr. W. Barton Young.

* Member, L.A.A.

OUR LIBRARY.

FEIPEL, L. N. *Elements of Bibliography*. 37 pp. 9½ in. × 6½ in. 1916. Univ. of Chicago Press (For the Bibliographical Society of America). 2s. 6d. net. Wrappers.

This little work is the most useful thing in its particular field that we have seen since the appearance of the late J. D. Brown's "*Manual of Practical Bibliography*." Although American in its origin, it is a work that will be found extremely useful by English students of bibliography, particularly by those who intend sitting for the Library Association's Examination in Section 2. The first part deals with general principles; it contains interesting notes on the scope and extent of bibliography, very full definitions of a number of terms constantly recurring in connection with the subject, such as "book," "edition," etc., and information relating to the different kinds of bibliography and the uses to which it is put, etc. The second part deals with practical applications, and describes the scope of the more important bibliographical works. Despite its price, which strikes us as rather high, we think that this is a contribution to the literature of practical bibliography that is likely to be of great and permanent value to students.

H.A.S.

OBITUARY.

We regret to record the death of Mr. James Matthews, F.L.A., who for the last 42 years was chief librarian of the Public Libraries, Newport (Mon.), at the age of 70 years. Mr. Matthews was appointed first assistant librarian at the Birkenhead Public Library, and went to Newport as chief librarian in 1875. Mr. Matthews was an enthusiast in his profession, and the author of numerous works and papers. During his librarianship he built up a large and valuable library of local and county literature, which will always remain as a monument to his industry and memory.